



**University of  
Leicester**

**Archaeological Services**

**Archaeological Trial Trenching At  
The Coach House, 9b Misterton Way,  
Lutterworth, Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 54525 84362**

**Donald Clark**



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**Archaeological Trial Trenching at  
The Coach House, Misterton Way,  
Lutterworth, Leicestershire  
NGR: SP 54525 84362**

**Planning Authority: Harborough District Council  
Planning Consent: 14/01667/FUL**

**For: Life Space Design Studio Ltd**

**Checked by Project Manager**

Signed:



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## **Archaeological Trial Trenching at The Coach House, Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire NGR: SP 54525 84362**

**Donald Clark**

### **Summary**

*Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on land to the north of The Coach House, 9B Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire following the demolition of the building described as The Coach House and prior to redevelopment of the land (Planning Consent: 14/01667/FUL). The archaeological work was requested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the client, Life Space Design Studio Ltd, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment). No deposits of archaeological origin were revealed by the trial trench evaluation other than a possible post-medieval linear feature running north to south. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession Number X.A20.2015.*

### **Introduction**

This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching undertaken following the demolition of The Coach House which had occupied the site on 9b Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, and was carried out on the 10th April 2015 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

### **Location and Geology**

The town of Lutterworth lies approximately 18km south-south-west of Leicester. The site is located on Misterton Way in the south-eastern corner of Lutterworth (Fig. 1). The Coach House is built in the south-eastern corner of the proposed redevelopment plot on the northern side of Misterton Way. The long rectangular plot runs northwards up the south-facing slope to reach the back gardens of a row of properties along Station Road (Fig. 2). At the time of the survey much of the land had been cleared of low scrub and vegetation and a number of low spoil heaps. Misterton Way is a narrow road which leads to a track passing under the line of the former Great Central Railway.

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the bedrock geology consists of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation with superficial glacial deposits of outwash sand and gravel.

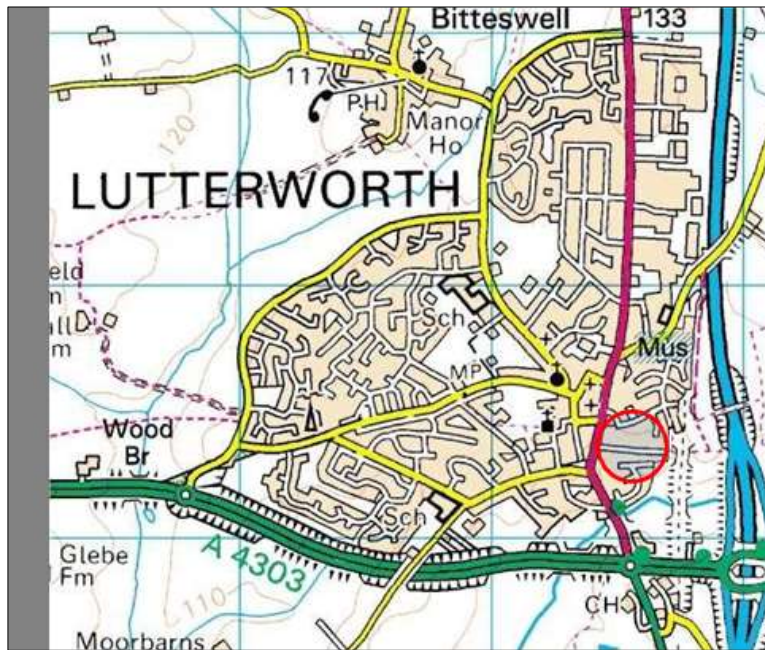


Figure 1: Location of site

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### Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk based assessment has been undertaken for the area (Dawson 2014). A 1509 Terrier shows the line of Misterton Way as a narrow track identified as Snelsgate with no buildings present. An 1853 Tithe map shows the same track now shown as Hog Lane with a number of unidentified buildings along either side near to the High Street end. The scale and detail is not good enough to identify individual plots and buildings. The first available map which shows the Coach House is the 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey County Series map which shows the Coach House on what was by then called Hog Lane with a pump behind (north) it and a pathway or track leading up the slope to the north towards a large house on Ely Lane. Ely Lane was soon to be renamed as Station Road when the nearby railway was built. The house, which still exists, appears to be of a late 18th-century design. Not many more maps are available but all show the Coach House as being the only building within the plot.

As noted the Coach House sits alone in the south-western corner of the plot. Brick-built boundary walls run along the eastern and western edges of the plot and appear to be of similar age to the building. The northern site boundary is heavily overgrown with a number of trees and large bushes. The southern site boundary is open to the road although a scar on the south east corner of the coach house shows where a boundary wall used to exist. A row of four terraced houses dating to the earlier part of the 20th century have been built against the western gable end of the Coach House.

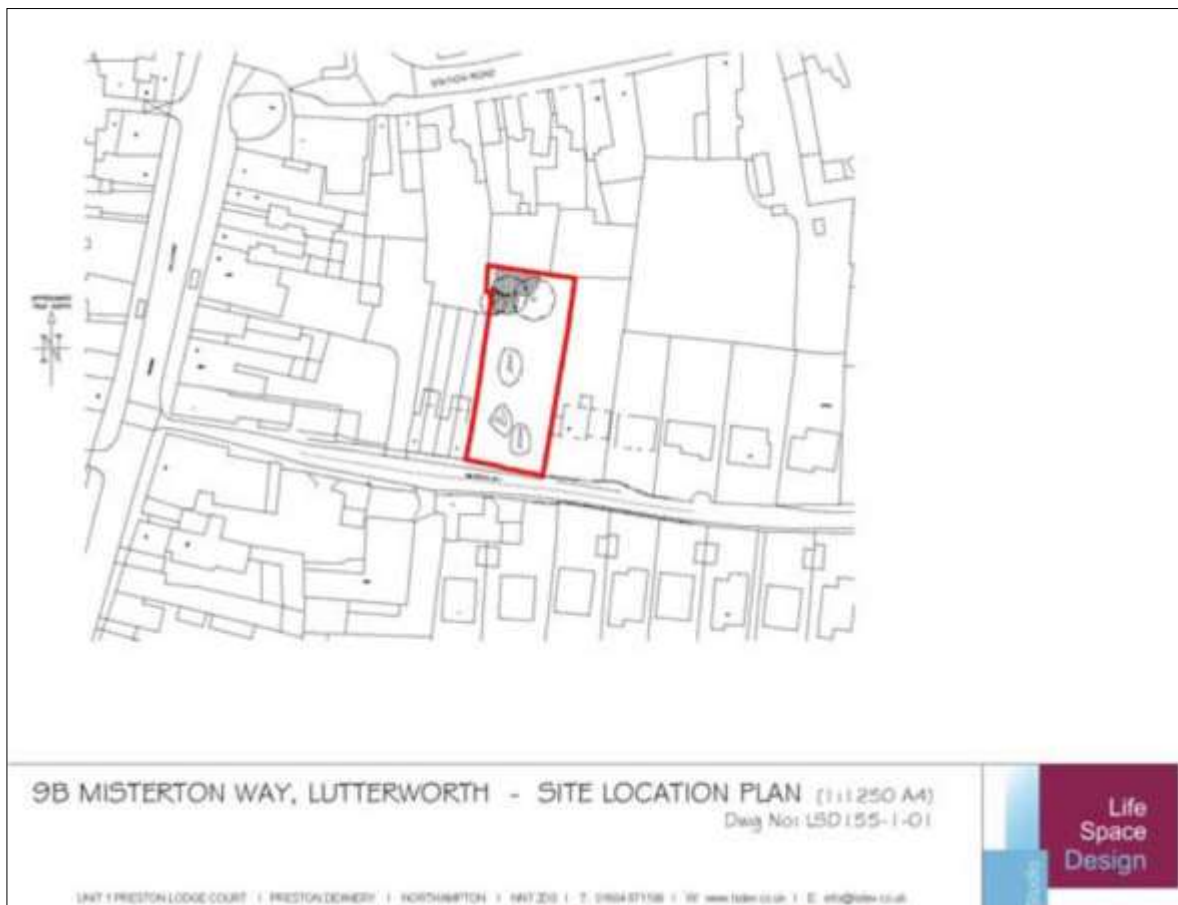


Figure 2: Plan of site (Supplied by client)

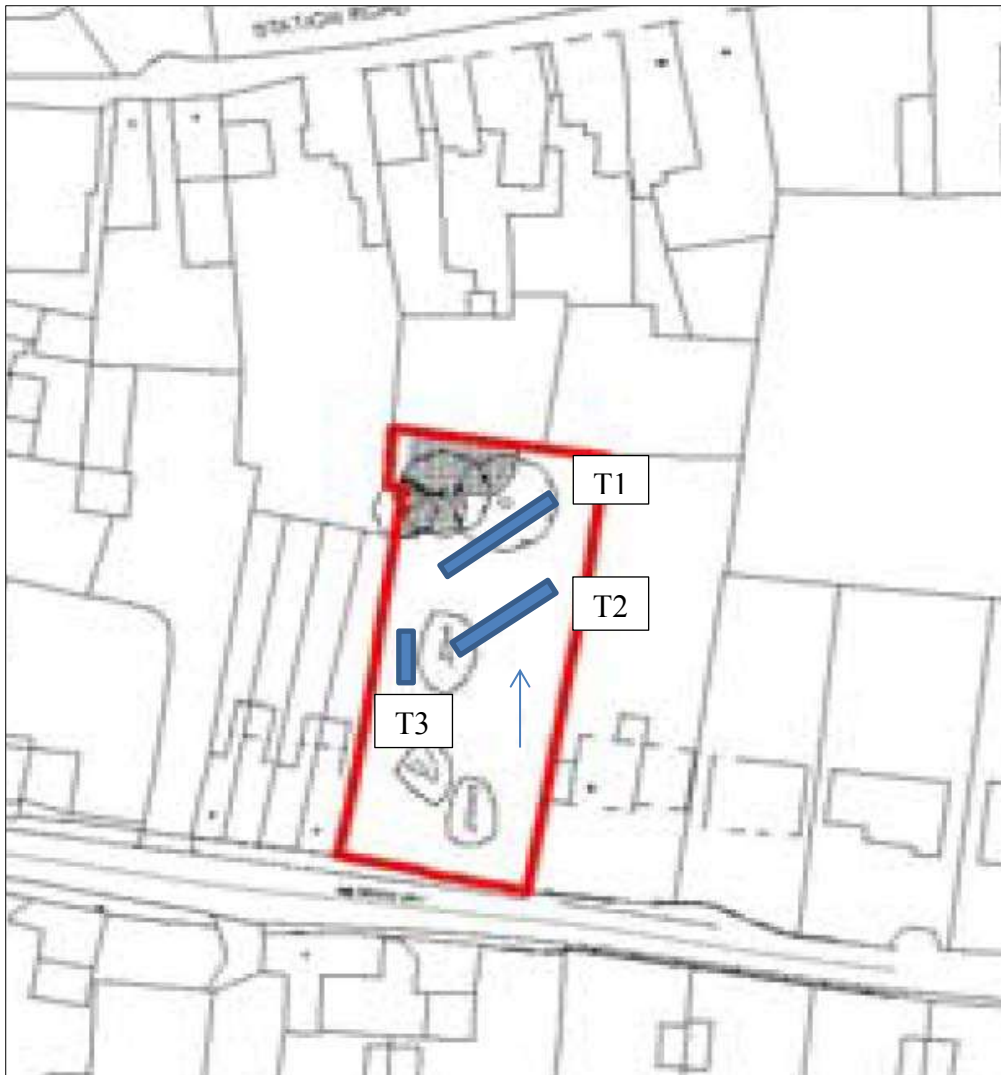


Figure 3: Site plan with position of trenches

## Aims and Methods

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## Methodology

The All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological excavations* (2014). Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are detailed in the WSI.

The trial trenches were excavated by a 14 tonne 360° excavator using a 2m ditching bucket under the direction of a ULAS archaeologist. Due to the confined area, three trenches were excavated measuring 16.50m, 15m and 8.50m in length, 2m in width and to a depth sufficient to expose the natural substratum.



Figure 4: Site prior to trenching facing north

## **Results**

The archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on the 10th of April 2015 following the demolition of the Coach House (Hyam 2015).

Two trenches, T1 and T2, were laid out on the site in a north-easterly to south-westerly orientation and their excavation by machine down to the natural sub stratum was closely observed. T1 contained a modern pit used for the disposal of the overgrown vegetation which had previously filled the site, but no archaeological deposits were present. T2 contained no archaeological deposits, natural sub tratum was observed. T3 was laid out in a north-south orientation and contained a post medieval elongated pit. Finds recovered from the pit, included ceramic building material, pottery and animal bone. The pottery has been dated between 1100 and 1550 and is likely to be residual as the pit appears to be of a later date.

### ***Trench T1***

Trench T1 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural sub-stratum of a yellow brown sand. The sub-stratum was overlain by a grey brown silty-sand subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty sand topsoil. In the north-east end of the trench a modern pit was observed but no further investigation was required as the pit contained



modern garden clearance debris. No archaeological features or finds were located in this trench.

Orientation: South-West to North-East

Length: 16.50m

Width: 2m

Interval	SW 0m	4m	8m	12m	16.5m NE
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.30m	0.43m	0.58m		
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.11m	0.13m	0.13m		
<b>Top of Natural</b>	0.41m	0.56m	0.71m		
<b>Base of Trench</b>	0.52m	0.70m	0.77m	0.67m	0.71m



Figure 5: Trench T1 facing north-east

### ***Trench T2***

Trench T2 was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum comprising a yellow brown sand. The substratum was overlain by a grey brown silty-sand subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty-sand topsoil. No archaeological features or finds were located in this trench.

Orientation: South-West to North-East

Length: 15m  
Width: 2m

Interval	SW 0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m NE
<b>Topsoil Depth</b>	0.23m	0.29m	0.28m	0.31m	0.36m	0.38m
<b>Subsoil Depth</b>	0.24m	0.13m	0.19m	0.13m	0.18m	0.20m
<b>Top of Natural</b>	0.47m	0.42m	0.47m	0.44m	0.54m	0.58m
<b>Base of Trench</b>	0.52m	0.56m	0.49m	0.51m	0.64m	0.67m



Figure 6: Trench T2 facing north-east

### ***Trench 3***

The trench was excavated under archaeological supervision down to the natural substratum of a yellow brown sand. The substratum was overlain by a grey brown silty-sand subsoil and the subsoil was overlain by a grey brown silty-sand topsoil. An elongated pit or possible linear feature (Fig.6) was discovered, hand excavated and recorded to a safe depth of 0.8m. This

was steep sided with sharp edges and may have been a modern cut feature. It contained a dark grey brown silty sand fill from which medieval pottery was recovered (below p. 9).

Orientation: North to South  
 Length: 8.50m  
 Width: 2m

Interval	S 0m	2m	4m	N 8m
Topsoil Depth	0.21m	0.19m	0.24m	0.22m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.07m	0.14m	0.12m
Top of Natural	0.31m	0.26m	0.38m	0.34m
Base of Trench	0.36m	0.31m	0.49m	0.43m



Figure 7: Trench T3 facing north



Figure 8: Post-medieval pit in T3

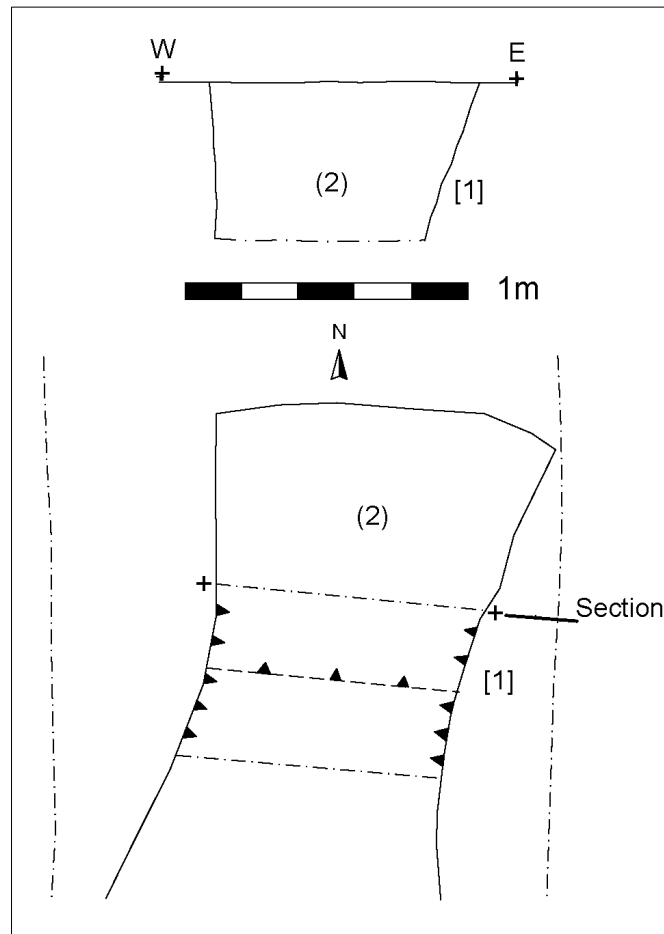


Figure 9: Section and plan of elongated pit

**The Finds**

*Deborah Sawday*

The four sherds of pottery, which weighed 77 grams, and the fragment of tile, weighing 139 grams from Context (2), were catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009).

The results are shown below (table 1).

**Conclusions**

Whilst the pottery is clearly medieval in date and typically local in origin, the dating of the ceramic building material is hampered by the lack of diagnostic features. These include the dimensions of the tile and the presence of peg holes or nibs which are commonly associated with flat roof tile, as at one possible medieval production centre, in Coventry, some 20km to the south-west (Ratkai and Woodfield 2005). However the tile appears to be hand-made, that is made in a sanded mould, and both this and the tile fabric and the association with medieval pottery suggest a terminal date in the later medieval or post-medieval period for the assemblage as a whole.

Table 1: The pottery and ceramic building material by fabric, sherd number and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	No.	Gr.	Comments
POT				
2 [1] pit	C02 – Coventry A ware	2	36	Basal angle & body, c.1100-1400
2 [1]	CO – Coventry ware - unclassified	1	14	Base, sooted underneath – spots of glaze on both surfaces. Coarse red-bodied sandy fabric, c.1100-1400
2 [1]	CW2 – Cistercian	1	27	Body – brown glaze on both interior & exterior surfaces, c.1450/75-1550. Possibly a product of the Chilvers Coton kilns in Warwickshire.
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL				
2 [1]]	EA - Earthenware	1	139	Part of a moulded flat roof tile, sanded underneath and on edge, fettled upper surface, c.17mm thick. Relatively coarse red sandy fabric with sparse inclusions including red and black iron ore and grog.

Site/ Parish: The Coach House, 9b Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leics Accession No.: XA20 2015 Document Ref: lutterworth5.docx Material: pot & ceramic building material Submitter: D. Clark	Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 121.5.2015 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 15-055 Site Type: peripheral to medieval core, associated with a later 18 <sup>th</sup> or early 19 <sup>th</sup> C coach house.
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## Conclusion

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken on the land north of the demolished Coach House on the site of 9b Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. Three trenches were excavated, two of which contained no archaeological deposits while one (T3) revealed an elongated pit. The sharp edged form of the pit suggested a modern origin although the only material recovered was of a late medieval date – post-medieval date (above p.9).

## Archive

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession No. X.A20.2015, together with the building report (ULAS 2015-037) on the Coach House (Hyam 2015). The archive will contain site notes, digital photographs and photo index.

## Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society in due course. The report will be added to the Archaeology Data Services (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## Bibliography

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## OASIS Information

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	The Coach House, 9b Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire
Summary	<i>Archaeological trial trenching took place on land to the north of The Coach House, 9B Misterton Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire following the demolition of the building described as The Coach House and prior to redevelopment of the land (Planning Consent: 14/01667/FUL). The archaeological work was requested by the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and carried out by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on behalf of the client, Life Space Design Studio Ltd, and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), section 12 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment). No deposits of clear archaeological origin were disturbed by the groundworks however a possible post mediaeval linear feature running north to south was observed and recorded. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the Accession Number X.A20.2015</i>
Project Type	Archaeological Trial Trenching
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Donald Clark
Previous/Future work	
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Erection of eight dwellings
Reason for Investigation	Planning condition
Position in the Planning Process	Planning consent 14/01667/FUL
Site Co ordinates	SP 54525 84362
Start/end dates of field work	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	2700 sq.m approx
Associated project reference codes	

## Acknowledgements

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Donald Clark and Andrew Hyam while the project was managed by Richard Buckley. The author would like to thank the on-site contractors who supplied the plant for their help and co-operation and Deborah Sawday (ULAS) for identifying the finds.

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